

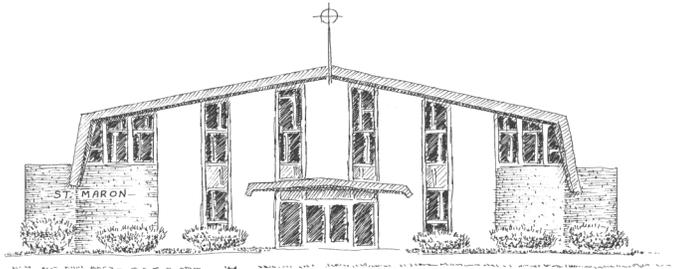
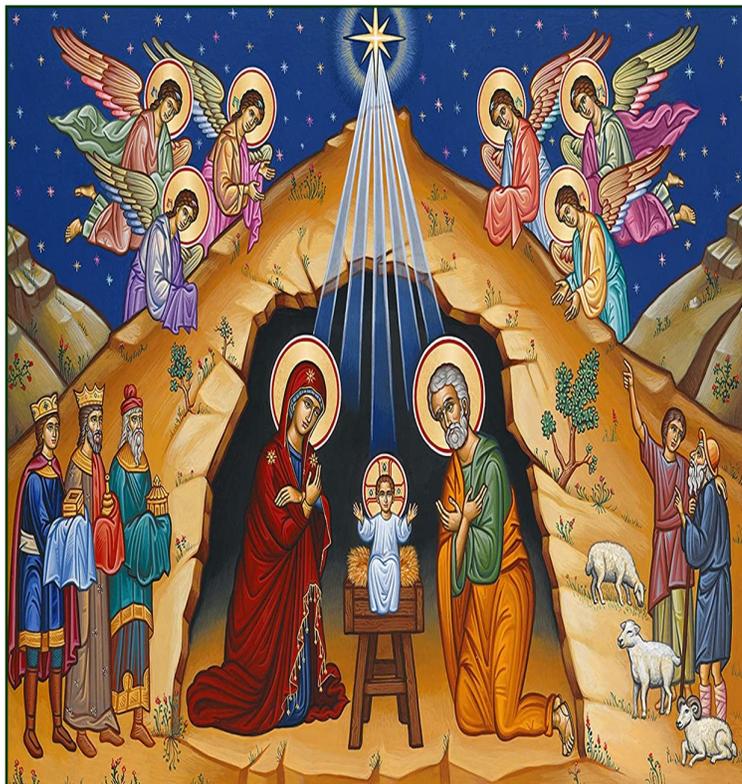
Saint Maron Catholic Church

THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2020

This Christmas is different from others! What is different? Let us meditate a little about the meaning of the feast: is Jesus not coming to save us? Did he stop loving us? Are we unable to receive him and be united with him? Is he not humble anymore and searching for a place to be born in? We have a whole list of questions to think about. But the reality is what is different this year are the exterior celebrations of Christmas. Christmas is the same; nothing has changed, except what we did. We have changed a lot and went far away from the spirit of Christmas.

We can make an Inn to Joseph and Mary in our house and welcome baby Jesus to our homes, this is Christmas! We can go to church and receive communion making from our heart a manger to Jesus, this is Christmas!



We can clean our hearts from sins and confess our weaknesses, this is Christmas! We can reconcile with someone we fought with and forgive them and make peace, this is Christmas!

Christmas is not a day; Christmas is not a holiday! Christmas is a new beginning of our relationship with God who became man for us. Christmas is a spirit of love and care for our family, our beloved ones, our friends and each other. Christmas doesn't end on December 25th; Christmas starts that day to initiate a new journey of faith. We renew our love to God who loved us and keeps loving us despite our sins. Despite turning away from him and putting him in a second or third place of our life, he awaits on the door of our hearts seeking our love and to let him in.

This year we cannot visit and celebrate with each other, this is the difference; if we cannot see each other, it doesn't mean we cannot express our love and feelings. It hurts to stay away from our beloved ones, but we have faith that this will end. May this Christmas be a new beginning to all of us, family and friends of St Maron Church, but also, we pray that it will also be a new beginning to the entire world. We pray to baby Jesus, God who became man, bring peace to our hearts and our countries. Come O Emmanuel, renew our hearts and our life!

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LITURGY INTENTIONS

Sun. Dec. 27: Sunday after Glorious Birth (Lit. p 76)

- 9:30 am

Liturgy for the intentions of our parishioners

Liturgy for the living and deceased members of Saint Maron Parish

Liturgy for the intentions and donors of Catholic Extension Society

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for the intentions of our parishioners

Liturgy for all of the generous people specially those who supported our Church this year

NEXT WEEK

Fri. Jan. 01: Feast of the Circumcision (Lit. p 97)

Liturgy for the living and deceased members of Saint Maron Parish

Liturgy for the peace and stability in the world

Sun. Jan. 03: Sunday of the Finding in the Temple (Lit. p 87)

- 9:30 am

Liturgy for the living and deceased members of Saint Maron Parish

Liturgy for the intentions and donors of Catholic Extension Society

- 11:30 am

Liturgy for the living and deceased members of Saint Maron Parish

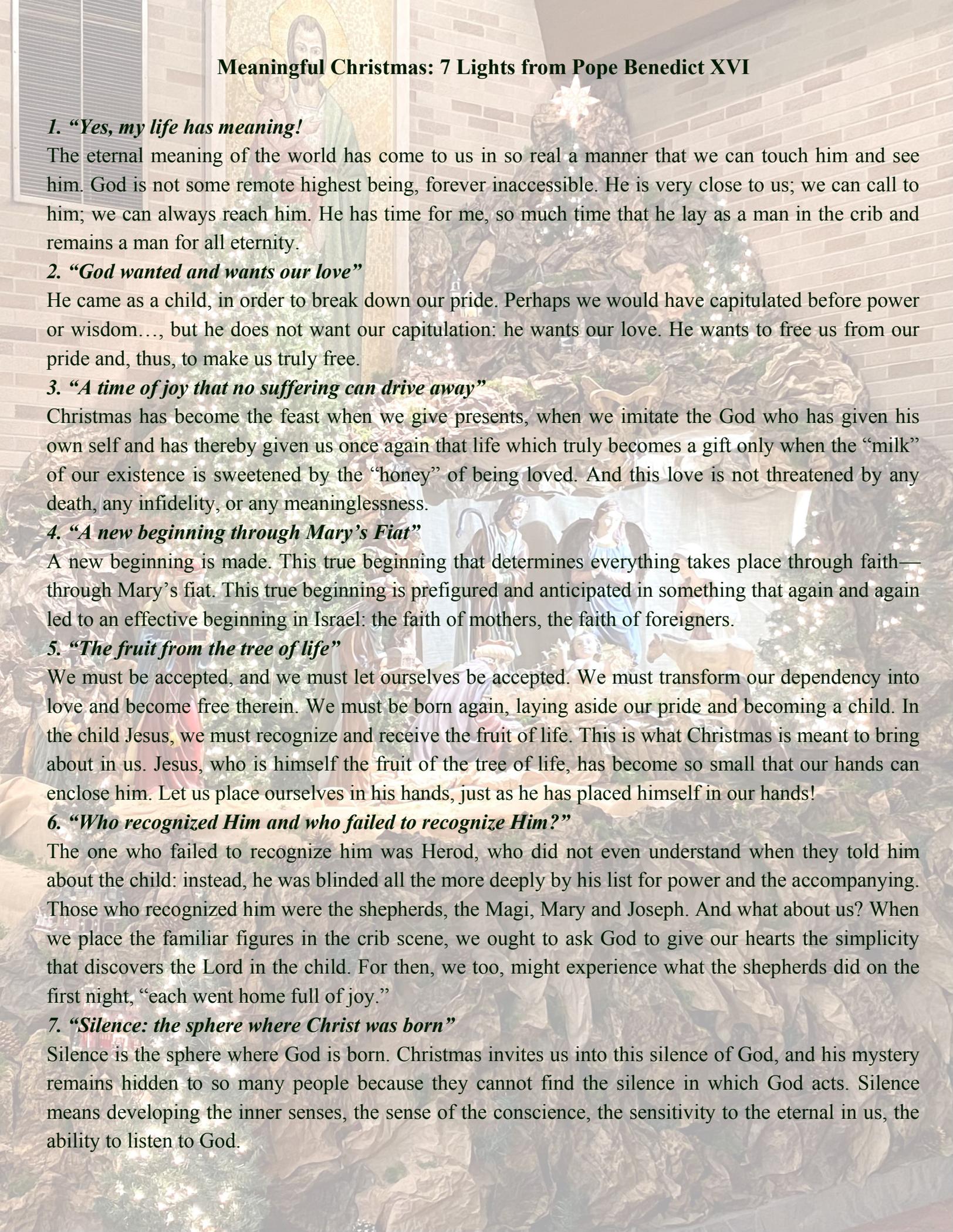
MARRIAGE BANNS

Third Marriage Banns between
Samir Karam & Shavonne Shaow

MARRIAGE BANNS

Third Marriage Banns between
John Karam & AnnMarie Faddoul





Meaningful Christmas: 7 Lights from Pope Benedict XVI

1. *“Yes, my life has meaning!”*

The eternal meaning of the world has come to us in so real a manner that we can touch him and see him. God is not some remote highest being, forever inaccessible. He is very close to us; we can call to him; we can always reach him. He has time for me, so much time that he lay as a man in the crib and remains a man for all eternity.

2. *“God wanted and wants our love”*

He came as a child, in order to break down our pride. Perhaps we would have capitulated before power or wisdom..., but he does not want our capitulation: he wants our love. He wants to free us from our pride and, thus, to make us truly free.

3. *“A time of joy that no suffering can drive away”*

Christmas has become the feast when we give presents, when we imitate the God who has given his own self and has thereby given us once again that life which truly becomes a gift only when the “milk” of our existence is sweetened by the “honey” of being loved. And this love is not threatened by any death, any infidelity, or any meaninglessness.

4. *“A new beginning through Mary’s Fiat”*

A new beginning is made. This true beginning that determines everything takes place through faith—through Mary’s fiat. This true beginning is prefigured and anticipated in something that again and again led to an effective beginning in Israel: the faith of mothers, the faith of foreigners.

5. *“The fruit from the tree of life”*

We must be accepted, and we must let ourselves be accepted. We must transform our dependency into love and become free therein. We must be born again, laying aside our pride and becoming a child. In the child Jesus, we must recognize and receive the fruit of life. This is what Christmas is meant to bring about in us. Jesus, who is himself the fruit of the tree of life, has become so small that our hands can enclose him. Let us place ourselves in his hands, just as he has placed himself in our hands!

6. *“Who recognized Him and who failed to recognize Him?”*

The one who failed to recognize him was Herod, who did not even understand when they told him about the child: instead, he was blinded all the more deeply by his lust for power and the accompanying. Those who recognized him were the shepherds, the Magi, Mary and Joseph. And what about us? When we place the familiar figures in the crib scene, we ought to ask God to give our hearts the simplicity that discovers the Lord in the child. For then, we too, might experience what the shepherds did on the first night, “each went home full of joy.”

7. *“Silence: the sphere where Christ was born”*

Silence is the sphere where God is born. Christmas invites us into this silence of God, and his mystery remains hidden to so many people because they cannot find the silence in which God acts. Silence means developing the inner senses, the sense of the conscience, the sensitivity to the eternal in us, the ability to listen to God.



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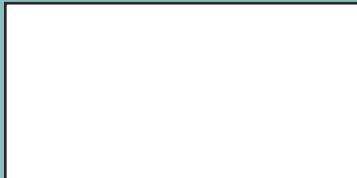
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